GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:59
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2005
IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL RURAL EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEE SCHEME
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently finalised and implemented National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the country;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof;

(c) the details of districts covered/to be covered thereunder indicating the number of persons benefited/to be benefited therefrom, State-wise;

(d) the funds released/to be released to each State Government;

(e) the directions/guidelines issued to State Governments for effective implementation of the scheme alongwith response of the States, if any; and

(f) the mechanism adopted to ensure transparency and accountability at all levels to implement the scheme?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH)

(a) & (b) : The National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), 2005 has been notified in the Gazette of India on 7th September, 2005. The notification for applicability of the Act is yet to be issued under section 1(3) of the Act. The objective of the Act is to enhance the livelihood security of the rural households by providing at least 100 days of guaranteed wage employment in a financial year to every household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.

(c): The Act is likely to be implemented in 200 selected districts of the country in the first phase. The process of identification of the districts has not yet been completed.

(d): Question does not arise.

(e): Wide ranging consultations have been held with State Governments, non- governmental Organisations, scholars and eminent people with a view to finalising the guidelines for the effective implementation of the Act. The draft guidelines have been placed on the website of the Ministry. The guidelines have not yet been finalised.

(f): To ensure transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Act, provisions have been made in Section 23 of the Act which are as under :-

i) The District Programme Coordinator and all Implementing Agencies in the District shall be responsible for the proper utilisation and management of the funds placed at their disposal for the purpose of implementing a Scheme.

(ii) The State Government may, by rules, determine the arrangements to be made for the proper execution of Schemes and programmes under the Scheme.

(iii) All payment of wages in cash and unemployment allowances shall be made directly to the person concerned and in the presence of independent persons of the community on pre-announced dates.

(iv) If any dispute or complaint arises concerning the implementation of a Scheme by the Gram Panchayat, the matter shall be referred to the Programme Officer.

(v) The Programme Officer shall enter every complaint in a complaint register and shall dispose of the disputes and complaints within 7 days of its receipt and in case it relates to a matter to be resolved by any other authority it shall be forwarded to such authority under intimation to the complainant.

Section 17 of the Act provides for social audit of works by Gram Sabha as under: -

i) The Gram Sabha shall monitor the execution of works within the Gram Panchayat.

ii) The Gram Sabha shall conduct regular social audits of all the projects under the Scheme taken up within the Gram Panchayat.

iii) The gram Panchayat shall make available all relevant documents including the muster rolls, bills, vouchers, measurement books, copies of sanction orders and other connected books of account and papers to the Gram Sabha for the purpose of conducting the social audit.